

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 SAIGON 16489 170448Z

20

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01

SPC-03 SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-13 SAJ-01 OMB-01

DPW-01 DRC-01 /157 W

----- 109885

R 170312Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7118

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AMEMBASSY JAKARTA

AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST

USDEL JEC PARIS

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY WARSAW

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAIGON 16489

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, VS

SUBJECT: HANOI REPLY TO US AND GVN NOTES ON COMMUNIST  
AIRFIELD BUILDUP IN SOUTH VIETNAM

REF: A. PARIS 24341

B. SAIGON 16345

1. HANOI'S NOTE REPLYING TO OURS OF SEPTEMBER 10 ON COMMUNIST  
AIRFIELD BUILD-UP IN SOUTH VIETNAM (REF A) IS TEMPORIZING AND  
DEFENSIVE IN THE SAME MANNER AS THE DRV FOREIGN MINISTRY  
STATEMENT OF SEPTEMBER 12 (REF B). NO ATTEMPT WHATEVER IS  
MADE TO DEFEND THE DRV AGAINST OUR CHARGE OF VIOLATING ARTICLE  
7 BY EMPLACING ANTI-AIRCRAFT AND SA-2'S AT AIRFIELDS IN SOUTH  
VIETNAM. IN FACT THE NOTE ARTFULLY ATTEMPTS TO DEFLECT THE READER'S  
ATTENTION FROM OUR CHARGE BY GRANDILOQUENTLY AFFIRMING THAT THE SO-  
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PAGE 02 SAIGON 16489 170448Z

CALLED PRG HAS THE "DUTY" TO RECEIVE ECONOMIC AND TECHNICAL

ASSISTANCE FROM COUNTRIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD--A POINT NOT IN CONTEST.

2. HANOI'S NOTE DOES NOT UNEQUIVOCALLY REJECT THE GVN CLAIM TO LEGAL SOVEREIGNTY OVER SVN AIRSPACE AND TERRITORIAL WATERS. (WERE IT TO DO SO BY ESPOUSING A "PRG" CLAIM TO BE SOVEREIGN IN THEIR AREAS, IT WOULD BE ACKNOWLEDGING THE EXISTENCE OF TWO SOVEREIGN GOVERNMENTS IN SVN; AND IT IS NOT HANOI'S PURPOSE TO PARTITION SVN LEGALLY.) HOWEVER, THE NOTE SEEKS TO GAIN THE SAME EFFECT BY DENOUNCING WHAT IT CALLS THE GVN ALLEGATION OF "THE RIGHT OF MONOPOLIZING THE CONTROL OVER THE TERRITORY, THE AIR, AND SEA SPACE IN SOUTH VIETNAM" AS "COMPLETELY CONTRARY TO LAW AND REALITY."

3. LIKE THE SEPTEMBER 12 STATEMENT, THE NOTE DOES NOT THREATEN A CONFRONTATION WITH THE GVN BY ASSERTING A RIGHT TO USE THE AIRFIELDS IN THE COMMUNIST AREA OF SVN OR TO INTRODUCE AIRCRAFT INTO SVN AIR-

SPACE. IT DOES, HOWEVER, WARN OF "GRAVE CONSEQUENCES" SHOULD THE US OR GVN "VIOLATE THE SOVEREIGNTY, THE TERRITORY, THE AIR SPACE, AND THE TERRITORIAL WATER OF THE PRGSVN." WHILE NOT A HOLLOW THREAT, THIS WARNING IS REALLY SUPERFLUOUS, SINCE THE COMMUNISTS HAVE LONG MADE A PRACTICE OF FIRING AT AIRCRAFT FLYING OVER THEIR AREAS OF CONTROL EXCEPT IN THOSE FEW CASES WHERE CORRIDORS ARE AGREED UPON.  
APPLING

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